Police Authorities/Protectors of Emigrants for investigation and action for violation of Section 10 of Emigration Act, 1983 and other provisions of the law as appropriate. In respect of complaints against the foreign employer (FE), FE is placed in the Prior Approval Category (Black list) and as a consequence, is not allowed to recruit workers from India.

University for NRIs

†3311. MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is going to establish a university for non-resident Indians;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of expenditure to be incurred on the construction of this university and the provisions that are being made for the funds?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) and (b) There is a proposal to establish a PIO/NRI University. 'Expressions of Interest' for the establishment of this University were invited from interested Overseas Indian Trusts/ Registered Socieites in June, 2007. The proposal is under consideration of the Government.

(c) The selected Overseas Indian Trust/Registered Society would arrange necessary funds for setting up the proposed University.

Assurance on Pravasi Bhartiya Divas-2008

3312. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any initiative to fulfil various assurances given by Prime Minister at Pravasi Bhartiya Divas of 2008 for welfare of Overseas Indians;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if so, whether there is any proposal for setting up a fund and resource center for the welfare of Overseas Indians;

(d) if so, the details thereof and steps taken for the same;

(e) the amount of money sent by Overseas Indians working in various countries for last five years, year-wise, State-wise and category-wise?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The Ministry has taken steps for implementing the various initiatives announced by the Prime Minister at Pravasi Bhartiya Divas-2008 and has already set up the Overseas Indian Facilitation Center (OIFC) to serve as a 'one stop shop' for investment facilitation and the Overseas Workers Resource Center (OWRC) to serve as a multi-lingual helpline for the benefit of overseas Indian workers. The proposal for establishing an India Development Foundation for channelizing overseas Indian philanthropic capital into India's development effort is being considered. Steps are underway for setting up the 'Prime Minister's Global

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Advisory Council of People of Indian Origin' to be chaired by the Prime Minister to serve as a strategic 'think tank'. The proposal for setting up a Welfare Fund for overseas Indian Workers is under finalization. Work on establishing the PIO University is expected to commence shortly.

(e) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is the nodal Authority maintaining data on foreign remittances. The remittance by overseas Indians in the past five years, as per the statistics of the RBI, is indicated in the Statement. (*See* below) Details of remittances, State-wise and category-wise is not maintained by this Ministry.

Statement

Details of data of private remittances by overseas Indians during the past five years

(Source: RBI website)

Private Remittances (upto September, 2007)

Year	In US $ million	In Rs. Crore
2003-04	18885	86764
2004-05	14494	66861
2005-06	24102	106860
2006-07	27195	122635
2007 -08*	18420	75238
*(upto September 2007)		

Protection of Indian women abroad

3313. MS. MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken various initiatives to protect women workers abroad;

(b) if so, the details thereof, indicating the women employed abroad who have been rescued by Government through these initiatives; and

(c) the action plan of Government to punish the fake travel agents found indulging in trafficking of women on illegal documents?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) and (b) All the Indian emigrant workers under the emigration check required (ECR) category proceeding for employment abroad in the 17 ECR countries seek clearance from the offices of Protectors of Emigrants (POEs) under the Emigration Act, 1983. Following measures are in place for the welfare and protection of Indian women workers abroad:

* No emigration clearance is granted to women below the age of thirty (30) years if they are seeking employment in ECR country.
* The employment contract duly attested by the Indian Mission, should be between the worker and the employer directly and not with the recruiting agent.
* In case of recruitment of individual Indian emigrant worker including women directly by the Foreign Employer a bank guarantee of US $ 2500 is to be deposited